

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Casey Prindiville, Tongbi Jiang, Art Unit:
Bret Street
Application No. Unknown

Filed: Herewith

For: SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGES AND
METHODS FOR MAKING THE SAME

Examiner:

Date: October 4, 2001

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a divisional application of pending U.S. Patent Application No.
09/590,023, filed June 7, 2000.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-32.

Please add the following new claims:

36. (New) A method of fabricating a support element for a semiconductor package, the
method comprising:

(a) forming a plurality of conductors on a first surface of an insulating material;

- (b) forming a plurality of die attach areas on a second surface of the insulating material, wherein at least one of the die attach areas comprises a defective die attach area;
- (c) forming wire bond slots to extend from the first surface to the second surface of the insulating material so as to form openings therethrough; and
- (d) attaching a cover member to the at least one defective die attach area so as to cover at least a portion of the wire bond slot.

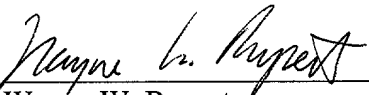
37. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising attaching a functional die to at least one functional die site prior to step (b).

REMARKS

New claims 36 and 37 have been added. Support for claim 36 is found in the specification at page 10, lines 1-10. Support for claim 37 is found in the specification at page 10, lines 19-22 and Step 4 of Figure 4. The claims remaining after amendment are directed to group V identified in the restriction requirement mailed August 21, 2001, in the parent application. Applicants look forward to receiving a first action on the merits. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-up Version of Amended Claims
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)**

Claims 1-32 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 36-37 have been added.

100-443887-100